(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to seek cooperation from the countries where wildlife products are sold openly;

(d) whether Government also propose to amend the Wildlife Protection Act to deal more effectively with the wildlife and forest-related crimes; and

(e) if so, the detials thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) A special inter ministerial coordination and enforcement committee for strengthening measures for control of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife comprising of members from Ministry of Environment & Forests, Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry *of* Finance has been constituted.

(c) International trade in wildlife and wildlife products are regulated under the provisions of Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). About 140 countries are member of CITES. India is also one of the member and regularly monitors the international trade in wild animals.

A transboundary meeting was held between India and Nepal in Kathmandu in 1997 to look into the issues of illegal trade of wildlife parts and products across Indo-Nepal Border.,

(d) and (e) Yes Sir. The Government has proposed to enhance the penalties and make it more stringent.

Increasing incidents of poaching

2193. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:
DR. B.B. DUTTA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently some film actors were caught shooting endangered species of Deer in Rajasthan in violation of the Wildlife Conservation Act, 1972;

(b) whether poaching for sport or commercial purposes is rampant and posing a serious threat to our wildlife, especially protected species like Tiger, Leopard, Elephants, Rhino etc.

(c) whether the present security arrangements by the Forest Department are ineffective; and

(d) what action Government are taking in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Instances of poaching for sport & commercial purposes come to the notice of the Government from time to time.

(c) As the economic benefits of poaching and illegal trade in wild animal and products increase, there is a greater need for strengthening the enforcement infrastructure including availability of better equipment and improved communication.

(d) Central Government provides assistance to the State Governments for purchase of vehicles, fire arms and erec tion of wireless network. Training pro grammes on techniques of detection and investigation have also been organised

सौराष्ट्र में औद्योगिक एककों द्वारा पेयजल तथा कृषि भूमि को प्रदूषित किया जाना

2119.**श्री गोपाल सिंह जी.सोलंकी**: क्या पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार को सौराष्ट्र और दक्षिणी गुजरात में पेयजल और कृषि भूमि को वहां स्थापित औद्योगिक एककों दवारा प्रदूषित किए जाने की जानकारी है और यदि हां,तो क्या इस संबंध में कोई शिकायतें प्राप्त हुई हैं;

(ख) यदि हां,तो इस पर सरकार की प्रतिक्रिया क्या हैं;

(ग) क्या सरकार दवारा इस दिशा में जागरूकता उत्पन्न करने हेतु कोई कदम उठाए गए हैं और यदि नहीं,तो उसके क्या कारण हैं;और